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INFO RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUFGAID/USCINCEUR INTEL VAHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BUCHAREST 000178

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STATE FOR EUR/NCE - BILL SILKWORTH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/01/16

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KCRM](#) [ASEC](#) [SOCI](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [RO](#)

SUBJECT: VANGOETHEM VERDICT, SENTENCING ROLLS U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS

Classified By: Classified by Deputy Chief of Mission Mark Taplin 1.4 B and D

1. (C) Summary. The acquittal of former MSG Detachment Commander Christopher VanGoethem on January 31 of negligent homicide, along with the ne  
2. (SBU) The Romanian media reacted with shock and outrage to news of the January 31 acquittal on negligent homicide charges by a U.S. court n  
3. (C) The Ambassador has reached out to the most senior levels of government, including the President, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Mir  
Basescu: Concerned about Defense Agreement

14. (C) President Traian Basescu, in a brief telephone conversation with the Ambassador on February 4, expressed "surprise" with the outcome. I  
15. (SBU) Although the Ambassador has reached out to Prime Minister Tariceanu, the latter is traveling in Turkey and as of the evening of Febru  
Tariceanu has both condemned the verdict and pledged GOR assistance to Peter's family if it seeks to file a civil case against VanGoethem.  
FM Ungureanu: A "Firestorm" in Public Opinion

16. (C) FM Ungureanu expressed appreciation to the Ambassador for reaching out to the MFA and agreeing to meet so soon after the verdict. Durir  
17. (C) At the same time, Ungureanu stressed that the GOR could not afford to appear passive in response to the "unjust verdict." He wondered a  
18. (C) In a separate private conversation with the Ambassador, Ungureanu expressed explicit concern that the verdict would have an impact on t  
Comment: Challenges Following the Verdict

19. (C) Regardless of the actual verdict against VanGoethem, in the court of Romanian public opinion he was guilty as charged. For many, more s  
TAUBMAN